

control apparatus distributing print data of interest, which is generated by an application program and is to be printed, into a plurality of printers and outputting the distributed print data to each of said plurality of printers via a printer driver provided for said each printer, said computer program causing a computer to attain at least one function corresponding to the structure of a distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with claim 25.

REMARKS

Claims 1-96 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 12 and 40 are amended to eliminate multiple dependencies. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Thomas J. Pardini
Registration No. 30,411

JAO:TJP/cmm

Attachment: Appendix

Date: March 12, 2002

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
--

APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

The following are marked-up versions of the amended claims:

12. (Amended) A distributed printing control method that distributes print data of interest, which is generated by an application program and is to be printed, into a plurality of printers, converts the distributed print data into output data suitable for each of said printers via a printer driver provided for said each printer, and transmits the converted output data to said each printer,

 said distributed printing control method comprising at least one step corresponding to the structure of a distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with claim 2 any one of claims 2 to 10.

40. (Amended) A computer readable recording medium in which a computer program used in a distributed printing control apparatus is recorded, said distributed printing control apparatus distributing print data of interest, which is generated by an application program and is to be printed, into a plurality of printers and outputting the distributed print data to each of said plurality of printers via a printer driver provided for said each printer,

 said computer program causing a computer to attain at least one function corresponding to the structure of a distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with claim 25 any one of claims 25 to 28 and 30.